

***Chlorogalum pomeridianum* (D.C.) Kunth ssp. *austrooreganum* Callahan (Asparagaceae),  
A new subspecies from Jackson County, Oregon, and adjacent Siskiyou County, California**

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**ABSTRACT**

A new subspecies of *Chlorogalum pomeridianum* (D.C.) Kunth is described as *C. pomeridianum* (de Candolle) Kunth ssp. *austrooreganum* Callahan. A suggested common name, "southern Oregon amole," is proposed. Plants are known from throughout Jackson County, Oregon, with fringe populations extending into Siskiyou County, just south of the Oregon/California border. Published on-line [www.phytologia.org](http://www.phytologia.org) *Phytologia* 97(4):271-274 (Oct 1, 2015). ISSN 030319430.

**KEY WORDS:** *Chlorogalum*, Amole, Asparagaceae

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Three other *Chlorogalum* taxa are known to occur within the range of *C. pomeridianum* ssp. *austrooreganum*. *Chlorogalum grandiflorum* has been found at only two locations in Jackson County near Gold Hill; these populations are widely disjunct from its range in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, California. The other two, *C. angustifolium* and *C. pomeridianum* var. *minus* occur only on ultramafic (serpentine-influenced) soils in southwestern Oregon. The other two *C. pomeridianum* taxa in Jackson County grow in sites separated by elevation. *Chlorogalum pomeridianum* var. *pomeridianum* is found at lower elevations, rarely reaching 600 m (~2000 ft). In contrast, ssp. *austrooreganum* is found at elevations exceeding 1220 m (~4000 ft). Although their elevational ranges overlap (both are found down to 290 m (1000 ft)), there is only one known site where the two taxa grow in close proximity: near the Jackson/Josephine County line along Savage Creek Road off Hwy 99 east of Grants Pass. At this site, Judith Jernstedt, John Erwin and I conducted extensive surveys and found no morphological indication of hybridization between the two taxa. I also attempted to hybridize these two taxa in the nursery without success. For this reason I have chosen to use the rank of subspecies in describing this taxon, rather than variety.

***Chlorogalum pomeridianum* var. *pomeridianum***

Bulbs 10(20) cm in diameter, bulb coats brown, not membranous, covered with many coarse fibers. Leaves ca. 20-70 long x 3 cm wide margins usually wavy to strongly undulate. Inflorescences: panicles robust, erect, many branched to 2 m height (maximum 3 m), branching pattern symmetrical. Flowers: open in the evening, (vespertine) perianth parts white with purple midvein, spreading to recurved at anthesis, to 35 mm in length, anthers to 2 mm long, style to 15 mm and not exceeding the perianth, perianth and pedicel of equal length. Capsules, short-stipitate, to 7 mm long containing 1-2 seeds/locule. Seeds: rough. Chromosome numbers  $2n=30, 36$ .

***Chlorogalum pomeridianum* (D.C.) Kunth ssp. *austrooreganum* Callahan, ssp. nov. Fig. 1.**

Type: USA, Oregon: Jackson County, Hidden Valley Ranch, south of Blackwell Hill. N42° 24' 9.6" W123° 0' 23.8", 1700 ft., on ridge east of Harris Gulch, 20 May 2007, Callahan CPA-HG-2007 (HOLOTYPE: OSC 243400).

The taxon differs from var. *pomeridianum* in that the panicle is not robust, but fragile and narrower in stature, few-branched and rarely to 1 m in height. Leaves ca. 20-40 cm long x 1.5 cm wide, wavy or not. Bulb coats are strictly membranous, white to cream-colored. Seeds are shiny and black. Plants growing in quartzite talus w/*Erythronium multiscapideum* and *E. hendersonii* with an overstory of *Quercus*